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ORIG 1 NATO

DANGER TO NATO IN SPY CASE, SAYS BONN

By Our Staff Correspondent
in Bonn

West German legal authorities claimed yesterday they had unearthed a "grave spy case" in the arrest last month of Heinz Dieter Pichotka, 41, a Bonn physicist with access to military secrets.

Heir Siegfried Buback, Attorney-General, said in Karlsruhe that Pichotka's true identity was believed to be Karl-Heinz Stoehel, an East German agent. Pichotka had attended top-level NATO conferences and "if he exploited all the openings he had could have done great damage."

The suspect's wife, Rose Margarete, had helped him in his espionage without ever learning his real identity, it was claimed. She married him in 1970 under the name Pichotka. She was arrested with him on March 9, but later released.